

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (U.S. 5,448,649). Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al.

Claims 1-3 and 10-12 are allowed. Claims 6 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) insofar as the light-splitter and splitting the light with the light-splitter, referred to in claim 1, was not illustrated in the figures. Since these terms have been deleted from Applicant's amended claims, it is not believed that any drawing corrections are necessary.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 6 and 9, and amended claims 1, 4 and 7 of this application. It is believed that the amended claims now specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1-3 and 10-12 are allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 9 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicant's amended claim 4 comprises a combination of original claims 4 and 6, thus redrafting claim 6 in independent form. Original claim 5 depends from amended claim 4. Applicant's amended claim 7 comprises a combination of original claims 7 and 9, thus redrafting claim 9 in independent form. Original claim 8 depends from amended claim 7. In the absence of any art cited against Applicant's original claims 4 and 7, it is not believed that any detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is necessary. Suffice to say that all of the claims remaining in this patent application contain subject matter against which no prior art citations have been made.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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